

WWSM 2473  
REISSUE**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

C 1      7. (twice amended) A ring binder according to claim 1 further characterized in that the engagement portion [is substantially upstanding] extends away from the base member.

Please amend claim 17 as follows:

17. (twice amended) A ring binder according to claim 13 further characterized in that the engagement [member] portion is integrally formed with the securing elements and the plate member; and

C 2      the plate member is integrally formed with the securing elements.

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

C 3      18. (thrice amended) A ring binder adapted to be secured to a base member, the ring binder comprising:

a substantially rigid integral upper structure;

a pivotable lower structure supported by said upper structure;

a plurality of ring members mounted to said lower structure; and

at least one securing fastener for securing said ring binder to said base member, wherein said at least one securing fastener is integral for enhanced strength, said at least one securing fastener including,

an engagement portion in direct engagement with the upper structure for attaching said securing fastener to said upper structure; and

a plurality of securing elements for securing said ring binder to the base member, at least 75% of said elements extending away from a longitudinal axis of the engagement portion.

Please amend claim 19 as follows:

19. (twice amended) A ring binder adapted to be secured to a base member, the ring binder comprising:

a substantially rigid integral upper structure;

a pivotable lower structure supported by said upper structure;

a plurality of ring members mounted to said lower structure; and

WWSM 2473  
REISSUE

at least one securing fastener for securing said ring binder to said base member,  
wherein said at least one securing fastener is integral for enhanced strength, said at least one  
securing fastener including,

C 3  
an engagement portion in direct engagement with the upper structure for attaching  
said securing fastener to said upper structure, and

securing elements for securing said ring binder to the base member, the securing  
elements each having a free end located at an end of the securing fastener farthest from the  
engagement portion, at least 75% of said elements extending away from a longitudinal axis of the  
engagement portion.

Please amend claim 28 as follows:

C 4  
28. (twice amended) A ring binder adapted to be secured to a base member, the  
ring binder comprising:

a substantially rigid integral upper structure;

a pivotable lower structure supported by said upper structure;

a plurality of ring members mounted to said lower structure; and

at least one securing fastener for securing said ring binder to said base member,

wherein said at least one securing fastener is integral for enhanced strength, said at least one  
securing fastener including,

an engagement portion in direct engagement with the upper structure for attaching  
said securing fastener to said upper structure, and

securing elements for securing said ring binder to the base member, the securing  
elements each having substantially equal length, at least 75% of said elements extending away  
from a longitudinal axis of the engagement portion.

[Please amend claim 29 as follows.]

29. (twice amended) A ring binder adapted to be secured to a base member, the  
ring binder comprising:

a substantially rigid integral upper structure;

a pivotable lower structure supported by said upper structure;

a plurality of ring members mounted to said lower structure; and

WWSM 2473  
**REISSUE**

at least one securing fastener for securing said ring binder to said base member,  
wherein said at least one securing fastener is integral for enhanced strength, said at least one  
securing fastener including,

C4  
an engagement portion in direct engagement with the upper structure for attaching  
said securing fastener to said upper structure, and

securing elements for securing said ring binder to the base member, the securing  
elements each having a free end located at an end of the securing fastener, the free ends of the  
securing elements being substantially coplanar, and at least 75% of said elements extending away  
from a longitudinal axis of the engagement portion.

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